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Message Text

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16
ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 L-03 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 EA-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NEA-14 NSAE-00 RSC-01

OPIC-12 SP-03 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 SWF-02

OMB-01 SS-20 NSC-07 STR-08 OIC-04 DRC-01 /181 W
---------- 029320
R 060538Z JUL 74
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2353
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIN, SW
SUBJ: DISCUSSION OF EMINENT PERSONS REPORT AT OECD INVESTMENT EXPERTS MEETING

REF: (A) STOCKHOLM 2795 (B) STATE 137390

1. SUMMARY. ON JULY 5 MFA OFFICIALS PROVIDED COMMENTS ON EMINENT PERSONS REPORT ON MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS (MNCS) AND THEIR IMPACT ON DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. THOUGH PRELIMINARY IN NATURE, SWEDISH VIEWS REFLECT A BIAS IN SUPPORT OF LDC POSITION. END SUMMARY.

2. MFA OFFICIAL S. BRATTSTROM, DEPUTY CHIEF OF SECOND SECTION, SAID SWEDISH HOLIDAY PERIOD HAS MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO REACH KEY OFFICIALS, BUT HE THOUGHT HE COULD MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS IN RESPONSE TO EMBASSY'S
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REPRESENTATION:

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A. BASIC GUIDELINES ARE: 1) SWEDEN SUPPORTS LDC EFFORTS TO INCREASE THEIR RELATIVE INDEPENDENCE, BOTH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC; 2) IT WOULD LOOK UPON IMPACT OF MNCS ON LDC DEVELOPMENT IN A PRACTICAL MANNER, I.E. THE RELATIVE BENEFITS TO BE OBTAINED BY RECIPIENTS; 3) SWEDEN BELIEVES THERE IS NEED TO OBTAIN "BETTER TRANSPARENCY" OF MNC ACTIVITIES AND THEREFORE SUPPORTS THE PROPOSAL TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THIS ASPECT.

B. REGARDING ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION ON MNCS, SWEDEN TENDS TO FAVOR HAVING GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES RATHER THAN PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS, AND THUS SHARES USG VIEWS. PROPOSAL FOR A SPECIAL GROUP TO DETERMINE WHETHER TO ESTABLISH PERMANENT COMMISSION IS UNNECESSARY. BELIEVES COMMISSION SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED AND AS FIRST TASK IT MIGHT LOOK OVER ECOSOC DOCUMENT 550.

C. SWEDEN DOES NOT OBJECT TO ANNUAL REVIEW OF MNCS BEING PLACE ON AGENDA AS A PRINCIPLE, BUT POSITION IS FLEXIBLE AND FREQUENCY SHOULD DEPEND ON SUBSTANCE. ECOSOC ALSO MUST CONSIDER RELATIVE PRIORITY OF THIS SUBJECT AGAINST OTHER DEMANDS.

D. ON PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH AN INFORMATION AND RESEARCH CENTER IN UN SECRETARIAT, SWEDEN HAS NOT DECIDED BUT WILL BE GUIDED BY DESIRE TO HELP LDCS. NOTED IN THIS REGARD THAT MNCS HAVE A STRONGER BARGAINING POSITION AND LDCS NEED EXPERTISE TO ASSIST THEM IN EVALUATING INVESTMENT PROPOSALS AND IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH MNCS. IN ANY CASE, SWEDEN IS LIKELY TO GO ALONG WITH MAJORITY VIEW. STRAUSZ-HUPE

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